

IN THE PRESS.

H A N D - B O O K  
OF  
WORLD-ENGLISH:  
INSTRUCTIONS, EXERCISES, AND READINGS  
IN THE  
NEW ORTHOGRAPHY.

BY  
ALEXANDER MELVILLE BELL,  
*Author of "Visible Speech," &c., &c., &c.*

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\* \* \* ORDERS MAY BE SENT TO EITHER OF THE PUBLISHERS.

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WORLD-ENGLISH:  
THE  
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE  
**REFERENCE**

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# REFERENCE

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## PROLOGUE.

**CONDUCTORS** of the Press have the power of greatly facilitating the object of this work, by making it known ; or of retarding it, by simply ignoring the effort. Opposition is not to be looked for from any quarter.

There can be no doubt that phonetic writing of English is capable of an immense influence for good, both at home,—in our schools and among the illiterate—and abroad, by world-wide diffusion of intellectual benefits through practical acquaintance with the English language. The Press can determine whether this popular installation of “World-English” shall be immediately successful, or whether it must force its slow way against the impediment of mere inertia.

To the Press, on both sides of the Atlantic, this Work is dedicated, in hope that enlightened “periodical” assistance will not be wanting for public good.



# WORLD-ENGLISH.

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(1) No language could be invented for International use that would surpass English, in grammatical simplicity, and in general fitness to become the tongue of the World. The only drawback to extension of English has been its difficult and unsystematic spelling. This is, however, established in its literature; and any attempt to remodel the general orthography of the language would fail to have the slightest hope of success. But such alteration is not necessary. A way is open by which orthographic obstacles in the path of learners may be removed.

(2) In the scheme herein presented the spelling of what may now be called "Literary English" is left absolutely untouched. "World-English" offers a free field for all needed improvements. National reverence for the glorious associations with the forms of our words will not, therefore, interfere with universal diffusion of the words themselves.

(3) English is mother-tongue to rapidly increasing millions, in both hemispheres; and some knowledge of the language is demanded by all educated populations on the globe. Social and commercial necessities require that the acquisition of this knowledge shall be facilitated by removal of every impediment.

(4) The Roman alphabet—although both redundant and incomplete—established as it is, cannot be displaced. But, for popular purposes, it must be cured of its defects. With superfluous letters discarded, and new letters introduced for unrepresented sounds, the anomalies which alone have made English difficult to learners, will disappear, and the beautiful simplicity of the language will become fully apparent.



(5) The Governments of English-speaking nations have a duty to perform in this matter. Let them give recognition to the amended scheme of letters, introduce it in primary schools, and—through their various agencies—spread abroad the means of teaching this unrivaled speech to every People.

(6) World-English is designed to be as little unlike Literary English as possible, so that the former may be used in schools as an introduction to the latter. This is very important; for, in order to leave present orthography undisturbed, a simpler mode of writing is absolutely necessary for beginners. Two forms of the written language must thus be equally acknowledged; one for lower classes of scholars, the other for higher classes. World-English is the *initiatory* form, from which pupils will be graded, in due course, into the literary form.

(7) But World-English has also a wider applicability. It aspires, in fact, to be, by natural adaptation, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE,—for which vague desires have long been entertained, although, hitherto, only futile efforts have been made. World-English, thus, supplies a convenient method for teaching children and illiterate adults to read; while it furnishes, besides, a simple and all-sufficient permanent form of the language, for non-scholastic learners, and for foreigners throughout the world.

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## WORLD-ENGLISH LETTERS AND SOUNDS.

### *Old Letters Retained.*

(8) The following seventeen Consonant letters, associated with their customary sounds, are retained in the World-English alphabet:

b, d, f, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, y, z.

(9) The following Consonant letter is now associated with a fixed sound instead of with fluctuating sounds :

g, as in go.

(10) The five Vowel letters are now associated with fixed instead of fluctuating sounds :

a, as in an.

e, as in ell.

i, as in in.

o, as in on.

u, as in up.

(11) The following four of the vowel letters,—discriminated by the mark [—]—denote the “long” sounds of the letters :

ā, as in ale.

ē, as in eel.

ō, as in old.

ū, as in rude, too, &c.

(12) The following four letters,—discriminated by the mark [.]—denote specific vowel sounds :

â, as in ask.

ê, as in err.

ô, as in ore.

û, as in pull, to, &c.

(13) The following letter,—discriminated by the mark [..]—denotes a specific vowel sound :

ä, as in air.

### *New Letters.*

(14) The following modification of the letter i is introduced for the “long” sound of I: [See par. 19.]

1, as in isle.

(15) The following nine new Consonant letters have been added for sounds hitherto unrepresented in the alphabet: [See par. 20, 23-27.]

- ç ch, as in church.  
 š sh, in she; [ci in social, ti in nation, &c.]  
 ž [zh]; s, in pleasure, z, in azure, g, in rouge.  
 ʃ th, in thin.  
 ȝ [dh], th, in then.  
 w wh, in when.  
 y [yh], h, in hue.  
 ŋ ng, in sing, [n, in ink, finger, &c.]  
 ʀ r, when not before a vowel.

### *Discarded Letters.*

(16) The following three letters have been discarded from the alphabet: \*

- c, because having the same sound as k, or s.  
 q, because having the same sound as k.  
 x, because having the same sounds as ks, or gz.

### *Sounds of the Letters.*

(17) In this Alphabetical Scheme ten of the letters are slightly modified forms of ordinary letters, and twenty-three are altogether unaltered. The latter have the same phonetic values in World-English as in Literary English; with this important distinction that the sound associated with any letter never varies, while, in Literary English, the sounds of the greater number of the letters are constantly varying. In World-English every sound has one fixed representative; and every letter has one fixed sound.

(18) The five vowel letters a, e, i, o, u, represent the most usual sounds of these letters; and the other sounds of the same letters are distinguished by customary marks.

(19) The letter i being inconveniently narrow to carry the sign of a "long" sound [—] an *elongated* form of the letter is used for the name-sound of I. [See par. 14.]

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\* The discarded letters are, of course, available for foreign sounds.

*Forms of the New Letters.*

(20) In devising the forms of the new letters, the aim has been to combine suggestiveness with simplicity. These letters perform a grand service in World-English. The first six of the new consonant letters uniformly add *a short line* to the ordinary forms of c, s, z, t, d, w; thus showing the relation of the new letters to the old orthography, in which the letter h stands for the short line; as in ch, sh, zh, th, dh, wh.

(21) The discarded letter c might have been used instead of the first new letter, but for the violence it would have done to old associations, in such combinations as nacun, vicus, for nation, vicious.

(22) The Greek "theta," or the Anglo-Saxon character for th, might have been used instead of the fourth new letter; but the principle on which the other letters are formed furnishes, in t, a character of extreme simplicity, and one which harmonizes better with the rest of the alphabet.

(23) The fifth new letter [d] shows that the relation of its sound to that of the preceding is the same as that of d to t.

(24) The sound of the sixth new letter [w] is simply a non-vocal w, and not a combination of h and w, as the old orthography erroneously suggests.

(25) The sound of the seventh new letter [y] is a non-vocal y.

(26) The eighth new letter [ŋ] combines the commencement of an n with the termination of a g, and thus fitly represents the established sound of ng.

(27) The ninth new letter [r] is necessary to distinguish between the Consonant sound, and the more common non-consonantal sound of the letter r. The consonant (r) is heard only before a vowel.

*Phonetic Memoranda.*

(28) The sound of the letter U, as in "use," is written, as it is pronounced, with initial Y [yū].

(29) Y and W, which in Literary English are very frequently employed as auxiliary Vowel-signs, are never so used in World-English. These letters invariably stand for their Consonant sounds, as heard in "yes" and "way."

(30) The diphthong in "out," "now," &c., is composed of the sounds of â and ù. [See par. 12.]

(31) The diphthong in "oil," "boy," &c., is composed of the sounds of o and i. [See par. 10.]

(32) The indefinite sound of unaccented a, as in a, sofa, alone, does not require any special mark to distinguish it from a. [See "unaccented vowels," p. 23.]

(33) The forms of the physiological symbols of "Visible Speech" have not been drawn on to fill the gaps in the Roman alphabet; for the reason that every part of every symbol in that system is significant, and the characters, if borrowed, could not have carried with them their full meaning.

### *Object of the World-English Alphabet.*

(34) The reader will observe that this scheme of letters is intended merely to facilitate English reading. For this purpose common letters are utilized to the greatest possible extent. The alphabet is limited to the elements of normal pronunciation. The sounds, for example, of a, in an, ale, air, ask, father, may not have exactly the same quality in the utterance of all speakers. But for practical purposes these differences are disregarded.

(35) If we wanted to show the *Anglican* pronunciation of such words as "various, experience, glorious," we must write a sound which is unrepresented in common orthography; thus: "vairius, eksperriens, gloriuri;" but the words would be no longer the same to all readers; whereas normal pronunciation will be denoted for every reader by the writing "vârius, ekspêriens, glôrius."

(36) So, too, different speakers will pronounce the letter *i* (I) with diverse shades of sound; but to readers of World-English the effect is simply "name-sound of I," however variously it may be uttered.

*Advantages of the World-English Alphabet.*

(37) Children and illiterate persons will be very readily taught to read from the new orthography; and they will afterwards make transition to reading from Literary English almost unconsciously. A phonetic initiation—so far from being a hindrance—has been proved to be a great assistance in forming the visual memory for spelling. The difference in appearance of a word in common orthography from that in its phonetic writing fixes its outline in the reader's mind: the word becomes a picture, and is remembered as a whole. Spelling is thus always learned by eye, rather than by rule.

(38) To foreigners, World-English offers great advantages, for after merely elementary sounds have been learned from the voice of a speaker, a student, of whatever nationality, will master a correct English utterance from the writing.

*English Adapted for Universality.*

(39) English does not require any alteration in grammar or construction to adapt it for its great function of universality. Should the critical reader discover any particulars in which change might be improvement, the points could be embodied in future text-books. Communications on this subject will be welcomed.

*Illustrations.*

(40) The following illustrations exemplify World-English typography, and, at the same time, furnish a test of its spontaneous intelligibility to readers of ordinary English.

(41) The illustrations will, no doubt, be deciphered without difficulty; and the reader will, it is hoped, become increasingly sensible of prospective benefits from this mode of presenting his language—to school children—to the masses who cannot attend school—and to the multitudes eager to learn English, in foreign countries. Happily, he may, further, be disposed to coöperate in propagating the method within the sphere of his influence. A widely awakened interest, and a philanthropic spirit, may both be reasonably expected.

(42) As the reader's knowledge of Literary English enables him to understand this phonetic form of the language, so will a knowledge of World-English be found to facilitate the reading of Literary English, by foreign and other students.

## EXEMPLIFICATIONS OF WORLD-ENGLISH.

[Accent is always on the first syllable, unless otherwise expressed. The accent mark is placed after the accented vowel. Capital letters are not used in these illustrations.]

numbérz			dāz and munſ	
wun	ēle'vn	ṭérti	sundā	āpril
tū	twelv	forti	mundā	mā
ṭrē	ṭértēn	fifti	tyūzdā	jūn
fōr	fōrtēn	siksti	wenzdā	jūl'
fɪv	fiftēn	sevnti	ṭuɪzdā	ōgust
siks	sikstēn	āti	frɪdā	septe'mbér
sevn	sevtēn	nɪnti	satuɪdā	oktō'bér
āt	ātēn	hundred	januári	nóve'mbér
nɪn	nɪntēn	ṭáúzand	februári	dēse'mbér
ten	twenti	milyun	máɪç	

## p r o l o g.

kondu'ktorz ov ɖi pres hav ɖi páúr ov grātli fasi'litātɪŋ ɖi objekt ov ɖis wurk, bɪ mākɪŋ it nōn, or ov rētá'ɪdɪŋ it, bɪ simpli ignó'rɪŋ ɖi efort. opòzɪ'sun iz not tū bē lùkt fɔr from eni kwortér.

ɖeɪ kan ðē nō dāút ɖat fòne'tik rɪtɪŋ ov ɪŋglɪʃ iz kápabl ov an ime'ns influens fɔr gúd, bōt at hōm—in áúr skúlz and amu'ɪ ɖi ilɪ'térāt—and abrò'd, bɪ wuɪld-wɪd difyū'zun ov intele'ktyúal benifits, ṭrū praktikal akwā'ntans wɪd ɖi ɪŋglɪʃ laggwɪj. ɖi pres kan dētē'mɪn wɛdér ɖis popyúlár instolā'sun ov wuɪld-ɪŋglɪʃ šal be imē'diātli suksɛ'sfúl, or wɛdér it must fòrs its slō wā age'nst ɖi impe'diment ov mēr inē'ɪʃya.

tū ɖi pres, on bot sɪdz ov ɖi atla'ntik, ɖis wurk iz dedikāted, in hōp ɖat enlɪ'tnd "pērio'dikal" asi'stans wil not bē wontɪŋ fɔr publik gúd.



## wurld-igglis.

nō laggwij kúd bē inve'nted for intérna'sunal yūs qat wúd surpá's igglis in grama'tikal simpli'siti and in jenéral fitnes tú bēku'm qí tug ov qí wurld. qí ōnli drōbak tú ekste'nşun ov igglis haz bin its difikult and unsistema'tik spelig. qis iz, háue'ver, esta'blišt in its litérityúr, and eni ate'mt tú rēmo'del qí jenéral orǵo'grafi ov qí laggwij wúd fāl tú hav qí slttest hōp ov suks'e's. but suq olterā'sun iz not nesesári. a wā iz open bī wiq orǵo'gra'fik obstaklz in qí pāt ov lérné'z mā bē rēmū'vd. in qí skēm hērin prēze'nted, qí spelig ov wot mā náu bē kōld “ lit-érári igglis ” iz left absolyúti untu'qt. wurld-igglis oférz a frē fēld for ōl nēded imprū'vments. našunal revérens for qí glórius asosiā'sunz wiq qí formz ov áur wurdz wil not, dērfór, intēfēr wiq yúnivér'sal difyū'zun ov qí wurdz qemse'lvz.

igglis iz mudér-tug tú rapidli inkrē'sig milyunz in bōt hēmis-fērz; and sum nolij ov qí laggwij iz dēma'nded bī ōl edyúkāted popyúlā'sunz on qí glōb. sōşal and komérşal nēse'sitiz rēkwir qat qis nolij şal bē fasi'litāted bī rēmū'val ov evéri impe'diment.

qí rōman alfabet—oldō' bōt rēdu'ndant and inkomplēt—esta'blišt az it iz kanot bē displā'st. but for popyúlār purpusiz it must be kyúrd ov its dēfē'kts. wiq syúpē'fíúus letérz diskā'ided, and nyū letérz intrōdy'ust for unreprēze'nted saundz, qí ano'maliz wiq alō'n hav mād igglis difikult tú lérné'z, wil disapēr, and qí byūti-fūl simpli'siti ov qí laggwij wil bēku'm fūlli apā'rent.

qí guvérnments ov igglis-spēkig nāşunz hav a dyūti tú pērfo'ym in qis matér. let qem giv rekogni'sun tú qí ame'nded skēm ov letérz, intrōdy'us it in prīmári skūlz, and—tū dēr vārius ajensiz—spred abrō'd qí mēnz ov tēçig qis unri'vald spēç tú evéri pēpl.

wurld-igglis iz dēs'nd tū bē az litl unlj'k litérári igglis az posibl, so qat qí formér mā bē yūzd in skūlz az an intrōdu'kşun tú qí latér. qis iz veri impo'tant; for, in ordér tú lēv prezent

ort'o'grafi undistu'bd, a simplér mōd ov r'itig iz absolyútli n'ce-esári for bēg'i'nérz. tū formz ov dī ritn laggwij must đus bē ēkwoli akno'l'ijđ: wun for lōér klásiz ov skolárz, dī udér for hjer klásiz. wu'ld-inggliš iz dī ini'syatori form, from wic pyūpiliz wil be grāded, in đyū kōrs, intū dī litérári form.

but wu'ld inggliš has olsó a wjđer aplikab'iliti. it asp'iz, in fakt, tū bē, bī natyúral adaptā'sun, dī yunivér'sal laggwij, for wic vāg dēz'iz hav log bin entértā'nd, oldō', hidértū, ōnli fyūtil eforts hav bin mād. wu'ld-inggliš, đus, supl'iz a konvénient međud for tēčig čildren and ili'térāt adu'its tū rēd: wyl it fu'nišez, bēs'đz, a simpl and ōl-sufi'sent pėrmanent form ov dī laggwij, for non-skōla'stik lérnérz and for forinérz trúa'ūt dī wu'ld.

dī rēdér wil obzē'v đat đis skēm ov letérz is intē'ded mē'li tū fasi'litāt inggliš rēdig. for đis purpus komun letérz ā' yūtil'izd tū dī grātest posibl ekste'nt. dī alfabet iz limited tū eliments ov normal prōnunsia'sun. dī sāundz, for egzāmpl, ov a, in an, āl, āi, āsk, fāđér, mā not hav egzaktli dī sām kwoliti in dī utérans ov ōl spēkérz, but for praktikal purpusiz đēz diféransiz ā' disrēgā'ided.

if wē wonted tū šō dī agglikan prōnunsia'sun ov suč wurdz az "various, experience, glorious," wē must rjt a sāund wic iz unreprēzēnted in komun ort'o'grafi: đus "vārius, ekspē'riens, glōrius"; but dī wurdz wūd bē nō loggér dī sām tū ōl rēdérz; wāra'z normal prōnunsia'sun wil bē dēnō'ted for evér rēdér bī rjtig "vārius. ekspē'riens. glōrius."

so, tū, diférent spēkérz wil pronā'ūns dī letér 1 (I) wiđ đjvėrs šādz ov sāund; but tū rēdérz ov wu'ld-inggliš dī efe'kt iz simpli "nām-sāund ov I" hāue'vėr vāriusli it mā bē utėrđ.

čildren and ili'térāt pėrsunz wil bē veri redili tōt tū rēd from dī nyū ort'o'grafi, and đa wil āftėrwōrđz māk transi'žun tū rēdig from litérári inggliš ōlmōst unko'nšusli. a fōne'tik inišia'sun—so fā' from bēig a hindrans—haz bin prūvd tū bē a grāt asi'stans in formig dī vizual memóri for spelig. dī diférans in apėrans

ov a wurd in komun orfo'grafi from dat in its fōnetik rjtig fiksez its aútljn in dī rēdér'z mind: ěç wurd bēku'mz a piktyúr, and iz rēme'mbérd az a hōl. spelīg iz dus ólwāz lérnd bī 1, ráđér đan bī rŭl.

tú forinérz wuuld-iggliş oférz grāt adva'ntijiz; for, áfter mēli elime'ntári sáundz hav bin lérnd from dī vois óv a spēkér, a styüdent, ov wote'vēr našuna'liti, wil mástér a kore'kt iggliş utérans from dī rjtig.

iggliş duz not rēkwŭr eni oltérā'şun in gramár or konstru'kşun tú ada'pt it for its grāt fugkşun ov yünivérsa'liti. şud dī kriti-kał rēdér disku'ver eni párti'kyúlárz in wŭç qānj mŭt bē imprŭv-ment, dī points kúd bē embo'did in fyütyúr tekst-búks. kom-yünikā'şunz on dīs subjekt wil bē welkumd.

dī rēdér haz, nō dáút, az anti'sipāted, dēsŭfērd dēz ilustrā'şunz wiđá'út difikulti. hē wil olsó, it iz hōpt, hav bēku'm in-krē'sigli sensibl ov próspe'ktiv benifits from dīs mōd ov prē-ze'ntig hiz laggwij,—tú skŭl-çildren,—tú dī masiz hŭ kanot ate'nd skŭl,—and tú dī multityúdz ěgér tú lérn iggliş, in forin kuntriz. hapili, hē mā, furdér, bē dispō'zd tú kóo'pérāt in propagātig dī meşud wiđi'n dī sfēr ov hiz inflŭens. a wŭdli awā'kend intérest and a filantropik spirit mā bōt bē rēzunabli ekspe'kted.

az dī rēdér'z nolij ov litérári iggliş enā'blz him tú undérsta'nd dīs fōnetik rjtig, sō wil a nolij ov wuuld-iggliş be fáund tú fasi'litāt dī rēdiŭ ov litérári iggliş bī forin and uđér styüdents.

# REFERENCE TABLE OF THE WORLD-ENGLISH ALPHABET.

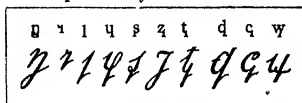
## Consonants.

Name	Name	Name.	Name.
k . . . . kǎ	t . . . . tē	ʃ (sh) . . . . iʃ	p . . . . pē
g . . . . gǎ	d . . . . dē	z (zh) . . . . iz	b . . . . bē
ŋ (ng) . . . . iŋ	n . . . . en	t̥ (th) [thin] . . . . it̥	m . . . . em
y (wy, or) . . . . yǎ	l . . . . el	d̥ (dh) [then] . . . . id̥	f . . . . ef
ɥ (yh) [hue] . . . . ɥū	ɾ (err) . . . . éɾ	ɕ (tʃ) . . . . cē	v . . . . vē
h (aitch, or) . . . . ha	r (ray) . . . . rā	j (dʒ) . . . . jā	w (double U, or) . . . . wē
	s . . . . es		wy (wh) . . . . yǎ
	z . . . . zē		

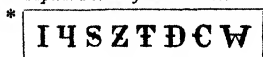
## Vowels.

a . . . . . an	ā . . . . . ale	ǎ . . . . . ask
e . . . . . ell	ē . . . . . eel	ĕ . . . . . err
i . . . . . ill	ī . . . . . isle	. . . . .
o . . . . . on	ō . . . . . old	ô . . . . . ore
u . . . . . up	ū . . . . . rude, too	û . . . . . poor, pull, to
ǎ . . . . . air	â . . . . . ah, arm, alms	ô . . . . . all
ǎu . . . . . out	oi . . . . . oil	

## Script Forms of the New Letters.



## Capital Forms of the New Letters.



\* The sounds of ɥ and ɾ never occur at the beginning of a word, in English, and these letters, therefore, require no capitals.

## NOTE ON THE ALPHABET.

Many schemes of phonetic letters have been at various times proposed, but generally with the hopeless object of reforming ordinary spelling. Minor orthographic changes, such as omission of silent letters, may meet with but little opposition, but a complete removal of the anomalies of English writing would have the effect of antiquating our entire literature and would be universally resisted. No system—strange to say while the want is a crying necessity!—has yet come into general use for the separate purpose of teaching children to read. This alphabet is preëminently adapted for the work. Its power to teach words, *as they are spoken*, leaves nothing to be desired; and the resemblance of the words to those of Literary English secures the easy acquirement of the latter through the former. This method should be made the basis of primary instruction in schools; and no other form of letters should be presented until perfect facility in reading has been attained. Pupils will then need little or no help in transferring their power of reading to the literary form of the language. Let primers and early reading books now in use be reprinted in the amended alphabet, and this great educational reform—affecting only beginners at first—will be at once established, without the slightest difficulty.

Practical utility, in connection with English, has been the sole aim in this alphabetic arrangement. The letters *ɹ* and *j*, for example, represent compound sounds, because the associations are already fixed in English usage. Consistency required that the organic correspondent of *j*\* should likewise be represented in the alphabet. Hence the new letter *ç*. Students of phonetics, who prefer to write all compounds analytically, have only to

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\* The sounds of *j* and *ç* are produced by the same organic actions, the difference being that *j* is vocal, and *ç* non-vocal.

substitute *ai* for *i*, *dʒ* for *j*, and *tʃ* for *c*, in order to fit the alphabet for their use. The popular purpose of this work is better served by the plan adopted, because it preserves a greater likeness between the orthographies of World-English and Literary English.

The letter *x* has not been retained in the alphabet, because its sound is not uniform—like that of *j*—but is sometimes *ks*, and sometimes *gz*.

nōt ɔn ɔi alfabet.

meni skēmz ov fōne'tik letéyz hav bin at vārius tɪmz prɒpɔːzd, but jenéráli wið ɔi hōples objekt ov rēfɔːmɪŋ ɔːdɪnəri spelɪŋ. mɪnjɔr ɔːtɔːgrəfɪk ʧənʒɪz, suç az ðmi'sʊn ov sɪlənt letéyz, mā mēt wið but litl opózi'sʊn, but a komplēt rēmū'val ov ɔi ano'maliz ov ɪŋɡlɪʃ rɪtɪŋ wʊd hav ɔi efekt ov antɪkwətɪŋ əʊr en'tɪʃ lɪtərɪtɪ, and wʊd bē yʊnɪvɛːsali rēzi'stəd. nō sistem—strānj tʊ sā, wɪl ɔi wɒnt ɪz a krɪŋ nēse'sɪtɪ!—haz yet kʊm ɪntʊ jenéral yūs fɔː ɔi sepəˈrɑːt pʊrpus ov tēçɪŋ ʧɪldrən tʊ rēd. ɔis alfabet ɪz prēe'mɪnɪntli ɪdəptəd fɔː ɔi wɜːk. ɪts pɑːr tʊ tēç wʊɪdz az dā ə spɔːkən lēvz nʊtɪŋ tʊ bē dēzɪˈd; and ɔi rēze'mbləns ov ɔi wʊɪdz tʊ dɔːz ov lɪtərəri ɪŋɡlɪʃ sēkyʊˈɪz ɔi ēzi əkwɪˈmɪnt ov ɔi latər tʁʊ ɔi fɔːmɛː. ɔis meθəd ʃʊd bē mād ɔi bāsis ov prɪməri ɪnstruˈkʃən ɪn skʊl; and nō uðər fɔːm ov letéyz ʃʊd bē prēze'ntəd un'tɪl pɛːfekt fəsi'lɪtɪ ɪn rēdɪŋ haz bin atəˈnd. pyʊpɪlz wɪl dən nēd litl ɔː nō help ɪn trənsfɛːrɪŋ dɛː pɑːr ov rēdɪŋ tʊ ɔi lɪtərəri fɔːm ov ɔi ləɡwɪj. let prɪmɛːz and ɛːli rēdɪŋ-bʊks nāu ɪn yūs bē rɛːprɪntəd ɪn ɔi əmeˈndəd alfabet, and ɔis grāt edyʊkəˈʃənəl rēfɔːm—əfektɪŋ ɔːnli bēɪ'nɛːz at fɛːst—wɪl bē at wʊns estəˈblɪʃt wɪdʌˈt ɔi slɪtɪst dɪfɪkʊltɪ.

praktikal yʊtɪ'lɪtɪ ɪn kɒnɛkʃən wið ɪŋɡlɪʃ haz bin ɔi sɔːl əm ɪn ɔis əlfəbeˈtɪk arəˈnjmɪnt. ɔi letéyz *i* and *j*, fɔː egzəˈmpl, rɛːzeˈnt kɒmpaʊnd səʊndz, bɛkɔːz ɔi əsoʃiəˈʃʊnz əˈr ɒlreˈdi fɪkst ɪn ɪŋɡlɪʃ yʊzɪj. kɒnsɪˈstɛnsɪ rɛkwɪˈd dət ɔi ɔːɡəˈnɪk kɒrɪspɒˈndɪnt ov *j* ʃʊd lɪkwɪz bē rɛprɛzeˈntəd ɪn ɔi alfabet. hɛns ɔi nyū

letér q. styúdents ov fòné'tiks, hú prěfě' tũ rjt 6l kompáándz analítikali, hav 6nli tũ substityút ái for' j, dz for' j, and tş for' q, in ordér tũ fit qí alfabet for' qái yūs. qí popyúlái purpus ov qis wurk iz betér sérvd b1 qí plan ado'pted, bēk6'z it prězē'rvz a grātér l1knes bētwe'n qí or'fo'grafiz ov wuuld-iggliş and litérári iggliş.

### ENGLISH SOUNDS.

The sounds of the English language have been supposed to be difficult of enunciation. The only basis for this idea is the fact that the sounds are difficult of *recognition* under the fluctuating guise of orthography. Thus, at sight of an unfamiliar word, even a practised reader is uncertain how to pronounce it; because the same combinations of letters have many different sounds in familiar words. To a foreign learner this difficulty is insuperable. Give definite and certain phonetic values to letters, and English utterance will be found to be, in no case, and in no degree, difficult to native or foreigner.

Enunciation of English is, on the contrary, in comparison with that of other languages, organically easy. Almost all early asperities have been smoothed away; but they have not been equally removed from writing; and this is one chief source of the difficulty of reading, to learners, and of spelling, to writers. All the elementary sounds will be correctly pronounced, almost at first effort, by any person to whom they are properly exemplified. The vowels in a(n), u(p), a(ll), and the consonants in th(in), th(en), h(ue), wh(y), may, perhaps, need a few repetitions by strange organs, to render them facile. The only real difficulty to speakers of other languages is the *accent*, or stress, which, in English, is always placed on the vowel of a single syllable in a word or phrase. The effect of this habit of utterance is rather to render indefinite the sounds of allied unaccented syllables, than to give force to the accented syllables. This fact must be borne in mind by foreign learners. The true effect of

unaccented vowels will be produced by giving such letters a careless *approximation* to their ordinary sounds. Thus *a*, in *about*, *comma*, &c., is not precisely either *à* or *â*, but—indefiniteness of unaccented sound being understood—the vowel does not require a more exact orthography than “*a*.” In such words as *between*, *receive*, *secede*, the same vowel occurs in both syllables, but it will always be heard with an unwritten difference, being less precise in the unaccented than in the accented syllable. The terminations in *certain*, *fountain*, *foreign*, *cottage*, *courage*, *language*, *college*, *knowledge*, &c., are regularly contracted to *-in*, *-ij*, and are so printed in *World-English*. Unaccented *â* finds its equivalent in *à*; unaccented *ō* in *ô*; unaccented *ô* in *o*; and unaccented *ū* in *ù*; A foreigner may, for a time, be more or less unsuccessful in acquiring the knack of accentual pronunciation, and in giving the precise quality to some elementary sound, but he will have no difficulty whatever in making his English utterance perfectly intelligible. It may still proclaim his foreign birth—as the speech of those born to the language proclaims their county or their State—but it will, none the less, be good English, serviceable wherever the language is spoken.

#### iggliſ sàundz.

đi sàundz ov đi iggliſ laggwij hav bin sup'zd tù bē difikult ov ēnunsia'ſun. đi ōnli bāsis for đis đd'â iz đi fakt đat đi sàundz â difikult ov rekogni'ſun undēr đi fluktyuātig gɪz ov ɔɪtə'grafi. đus, at sɪt ov an unfami'lyâr wuɪd, ēvn a praktist rēdēr iz unsēr'tin hâu tù prônâ'uns it, bēkô'z đi sām kombinâ'ſunz ov letērz hav meni difērent sàundz in fami'lyâr wuɪdz. tù a forin lērnēr đis difikulti iz insyū'pérabl. giv definit and sēt'in fōne'tik valyúz tù letērz, and iggliſ utērans wil bē fāund tù bē, in nō kās, and in nō dēgrē', difikult tù nativ ɔɪ forinēr.

ēnunsia'ſun ov iggliſ iz, on đi kontrari, in komp'a'risun wiđ đat ov udēr laggwijiz, ɔɪg'a'nikali ēzi. ôlmôst ôl ēɪli aspe'ritiz hav bin smūdd awâ', but đā hav not bin ēkwoli rēmū'vd from rɪtɪŋ;



and dis iz wun qēf sōrs ov dī difikulti ov rēdig, tū lērnērs, and ov spelig, tū rjtērs. ōl dī elime'ntāri sāundz wil be kore'ktli prōnā'ūnst, ōlmōst at fērst ēfort, bī enī pērsun tū hūm qā āi propē'li egze'mplifd. dī vāuelz in an, ūp, ōl; and dī kon-sōnants in tīn, dēn, qū, wī; mā, pēi'ha'ps, nēd a fyū repiti'sunz bī strānj or'ganz, tū rendēi dēm fasil. dī ōnli real difikulti tū spēkērs ov udēi laggwijiz iz dī ak'sent, or stres, wiç, in iggliç, iz ōlwāz plāst on dī vāuel ov a singl silabl in a wurd or frāz. dī efe'kt ov dīs habit ov utērans iz rādēi tū rendēr inde'finit dī sāundz ov alīd unakse'nted silablz dān tū giv fōrs tū akse'nted silablz. dīs fakt must be bōrn in mīnd bī forin lērnērs. dī trū efe'kt ov unakse'nted vāuelz wil be prōdyū'st bī mē'li givig suç letērs a kārles aproksimā'sun tū dēr ordināri sāundz. dūs a, in about, comma, &c., iz not prēs'sli ēdēi a or ā; but—in-de'finitnes ov unakse'nted sāund bēig undē'stūd—dī vāuel duz not rēkwī'r a mōr egza'kt or'fō'grafi dān "a." in suç wurdz az bētwe'n, rēsē'v, sēsē'd, dī sām vāuel oku'rs in bōt silablz, but it wil ōlwāz be hērd wiç an unri'tn difērens, bēig les prēs's in dī unakse'nted dān in dī akse'nted silabl. dī tērminā'sunz in cer-tain, fountain, foreign, cottage, courage, language, &c., āi reg-yūlārli kontra'kted tū -in, -ij, and āi sō ritn in wuld-iggliç. unakse'nted ā fīndz its ekwi'valent in ā; unakse'nted ō in ō; un-akse'nted ō in o; and unakse'nted ū in ū. a forinēi mā, for a tīm, bē mōr or les unsukse'sfūl in akwī'rig dī nak ov akse'ntyūal prōnunsīā'sun, or in givig its prēs's kwoliti tū sum elime'ntāri sāund; but hē wil hav nō difikulti wote'vēr in mākiç hiz iggliç utērans pērfekti inte'lījibl. it mā stil prōklām hiz forin bēt—az dī spēç ov dōz boīn tū dī laggwij prōklāmz dāi kāūnti or dēi stāt—but it wil, nun dī les, bē gūd iggliç, sērvisabl wāre'vēr dī laggwij iz spōken.

#### UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

The idea of Universal Language has always been a fascinating one. Bishop John Wilkins gave shape to it, in England, in his

"Philosophical Language" published in 1668. This most ingenious scheme included a system of ideographic symbols, forming a "Real Character," translatable into the words of any language; and also an Alphabetic method, in which the relations of ideas were expressed by adding significant letters as prefixes or suffixes to arbitrary root-syllables. The plan was too elaborate for popular comprehension, and no attempt has ever been made to bring either of its forms into use.

Recently, a scheme in some respects resembling the alphabetic method of Bishop Wilkins, has been brought forward under the name of "Volapük." This system is said to have been favourably received in Germany, and elsewhere in Europe. The root-syllables in Volapük are selected from the words of existing languages; and, by means of prefixed or postfixed letters, they are made to express distinctions of gender, number, case, person, voice, mood, tense, &c. The result is a highly inflected language, involving a multitude of details to be constantly attended to, and requiring the user to be an expert grammarian.

If these are the models on which a universal language is to be built, we need look no further than to the "Philosophical Language" or to "Volapük;" but a speaker of English, happily emancipated as he is from vexations of verbal inflection, repudiates the models. The English language has been, itself, steadily reaching out towards universality. It has covered the North American continent and the islands of the antipodes. It has become a necessity wherever English or American navigators penetrate. India, China, and Japan are teaching it in their schools. Commerce has invented a barbarous variety of it as a Port-language, called "Pigeon-English;" and, but for want of an explicit system of letters, it would, long ere this, have fully filled its destined place. One of the chief qualifications of English for its grand future is that its learner has only to memorise *words*, and that he has no need to think, or know, anything of

the grammatical subtleties that are essential to the use of the artificial languages.

World-English presents the English language—made intelligible, equally, to all readers—by means of a simple and consistent mode of writing. The supposed necessity for a new International language will be entirely superseded by furnishing English with this alphabetic passport to universal acceptance.

### yūnivē'isal laggwij.

qī jdē'a ov yūnivē'isal laggwij has ōlwāz bin a fasinātig wun. bišop jon wilkinz gāv šāp tū it, in iggland, in hiz “filōso'fikal laggwij” publišt in 1668. qīs mōst injē'nus skēm inklū'ded a sistem ov jdēōgrā'fik simbolz formig a “rēal karaktēr,” translāt-  
abl intū qī wurdz ov eni laggwij; and olsó an alfabe'tik meṭud, in wiç qī rēlā'sunz ov jdē'az wēr ekspre'st bī adig signifikant letērz az prēfiksiz or sufiksiz tū ārbitrāri rūt-silablz. qī plan woz tū ēlā'bōrāt for popyūlār komprēhe'nšun, and no ate'mt haz evér bin mād tū brig ēdēr ov its formz intū yūs.

rēsenti, a skēm in sum rēspe'kts rēze'mblig qī alfabe'tik meṭud ov bišop wilkinz, haz bin brōt forwōrd undér qī nām ov “vōlā-pūk.” qīs sistem iz sed tū hav bin fāvurabli rēsē'vd in jērmani, and elswār in yūrōp. qī rūt-silablz in vōlāpūk ār sēle'kted from wurdz ov egzi'stig laggwijiz; and, bī mēnz ov prēfiks or pōstfiks letērz, qā ār mād tū ekspre's disti'gkšunz ov jendēr, numbēr, kās, pērsun, vois, mūd, tens, &c. qī rēzu't iz a hīli infle'kted laggwij, invo'lving a multityūd ov dētālz tū bē konstantli ate'nded tū, and rēkw'rīg qī yūzēr tū bē an ekspē't gramā'rian.

if dēz ār qī modelz on wiç a yūnivē'isal laggwij iz tū bē bilt, wē nēd lūk nō furdēr đan tū qī “filōso'fikal laggwij,” or tū “vōlāpūk;” but a spēkēr ov iggliš, hapili ēma'nšipāted az hē iz from veksā'šunz ov vērbal infle'kšun, rēpyū'diāts qī modelz. iggliš haz bin itse'lf stedili rēçig āūt tōrdz yūnivē'saliti. it haz kuvērd qī norç amē'rikan kontinent, and qī ṽlandz ov qī

anti'pódēz. it haz bēku'm a nēse'siti wāre'vēr inggliṣ or amēri-  
kan navigātorz penitrāt. • india, çīna, and japa'n ā tēçiq it in  
dēi ṣkūlz. komērs haz invēntēd a bārbārus vārjetī ov it az a  
pōrt-laggwīj, kōld "pijun-inggliṣ;" and, but for wont ov an eke-  
pli'sit sistem ov letērz, it wūd, loḡ ār dīs, hav fūlli fild its destind  
plās. wun 'ov dī çēf kwolifikā'sunz ov inggliṣ for its grand  
fyūtyūr iz dāt its lērnēi haz ōnli tū memōrz wurdz, and dāt hē  
haz nō nēd tū ṭipk, or nō, eniṭiq ov dī grama'tikal sutltiz dāt ār  
ese'nṣal tū yūs ov dī ārtifiṣal laggwījiz.

wūld-inggliṣ prēze'nts dī inggliṣ laggwīj—mād inte'lijibl, ēkwoli  
tū ōl rēdērz—bī mēnz ov a simpl and konsi'stent mōd ov rītiḡ.  
dī supōzd nēse'siti for a nyū intērna'ṣunal laggwīj wil bē entī'li  
syūpērsē'ded bī fuɳniṣiq inggliṣ wiḡ dīs alfabe'tik pāspōrt tū yūni-  
vē'sal akse'ptans.

### *Spelling Reform.*

With this phonetic system of World-English to remove diffi-  
culties of initiation in reading, and to furnish a key to pronuncia-  
tion, there will be less need for striving after reform in ordinary  
spelling. To "reform it altogether" would be beyond the scope  
of orthographic reformers generally; yet nothing less than this  
would make our writing phonetic. Spelling must remain a sep-  
arate art, pictorial in its nature, and learned chiefly by eye.  
Nevertheless, many changes may be made to simplify the outlines  
of words and render them more easy of remembrance. The  
silent letter in the terminations -our, -and -ous, for example, may  
with advantage be omitted; but, unfortunately, spelling "reform-  
ers" have been already at work on the first of these syllables, and  
have actually omitted the spoken letter and retained the silent  
one! Thus, favour, labour, vigour, are, in America, very gen-  
erally written favor, labor, vigor, while they are universally  
pronounced, both in America and England, favur, labur, vigor.  
Any change in the orthography of literary English ought at least  
to be phonetic. Otherwise spelling should be let alone.

## spelīg refoʻm.

wiḡ ḡis fone'tik sistem ov wu:ld-iggliḡ. tū rēmū'v difikultiz ov iniḡiā'sun in rēdiḡ, and tū fuiniḡ a kē tū prōnusiā'sun, ḡēr wil bē les nēd fōr strivig āftēr rēfoʻm in ōdināri spelīg. tū “rēfoʻm it oltūge'der” wūd bē bēyo'nd ḡi skōp 'ov oʻtōgra'fik rēfoʻmērız jenērali; yet nuḡig les ḡan ḡis wūd māk āūr rītig fōne'tik. spelīg must rēmā'n a separāt ārt, piktō'rial in its nāt-yūr, and lēnd ḡēfi bī 1. nevērḡile's, meni ḡānjiz mā bē mād tū simplifī ḡi āūtlinz ov wurdz and rendēr ḡem mōr ēzi ov rēme'mbrans. ḡi sīlent letēr in ḡi tērminā'sunz -our and -ous, for egzā'mpl, mā wiḡ adva'ntij bē ōmi'ted; but, unfō'ityunāti, spelīg “rēfoʻmērız” hav bin olre'di at wurk on ḡi fērst ov ḡēz silablz, and hav aktyūali ōmi'ted ḡi spōken letēr and rētā'nd ḡi sīlent wun! ḡus, favour, labour, vigour, ār, in amē'rika, veri jenērali ritn favor, labor, vigor, wyl ḡā āi yūnivē'rsali prōnā'ūnst, bōt in amē'rika and iggland, fāvur, lābur, vigur. eni ḡānj in ḡi oʻtō'grafi ov litērāri iggliḡ ōt at lēst tū bē fōne'tik. uḡērwyz spelīg ḡūd bē let alō'n.

## PHONETIC RULES.

The orthography in the foregoing illustrations of World-English might have been apparently simplified by the adoption of a few phonetic rules, such as:

I. The letters e and o, when final in monosyllables, are always pronounced long. With this rule the words mē, nō, &c., might be simply written me, no, &c.

II. The letter e before r in the same syllable is always pronounced ē. With this rule the words hēr, fēr, ērt, &c., might be simply written he, fe, er, &c.

III. The letters au are always, in combination, pronounced āū. With this rule the words āūt, nāū, &c., might be simply written aut, nau, &c.

Such rules may possibly find advocates. Here they are merely pointed out. The exact pronunciation of every syllable is, preferably, indicated throughout the illustrations in this book, so that no knowledge beyond that of the alphabetic elements is necessary to enable the learner to read the words with accuracy.

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## EPILOGUE

EVERY one has heard of the butcher, who, after a long search for his knife, at last found it in his mouth. So, speakers of English have been seeking for a Universal Language, when lo ! it is in their mouths ! The intelligibility of words has been obscured by a dense mist of letters. This is now dispersed in World-English ; and the language stands revealed,—beyond comparison clear, simple, copious, and cosmopolitan,—the fitting tongue of Humanity.

### epilog.

evéri wun haz hérd ov dī būçér, hū, áftér a long sêrç for hiz nıf, at last fáúnd it in hiz máúť. sō, spēkéřz ov inggliş hav bin sêking for a yünivér’sal laggwij, yén lō ! it iz in dēr máúdz ! dī intelijibí’liti ov wuřdz haz bin obskyú’ıd bı a dens mist ov letêřz. dīs iz náu dispê’řst in wuřld-inggliş ; and dī laggwij standz rēvē’ld—bēyo’nd kompa’risun klēř, simpl, kōpius, and koz-mópo’litan—dī fitig tug ov qúma’niti.

# ERRATA.

p. 15, line 13, for janûâri, read janyûâri.

p. 18, line 2, for mind, read mînd.

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